

the mediators that it should be the courts themselves who are looking at it rather than the State Court Administrator Office. And finally, the amendment provides that the court can order temporary support pending the development of a parenting plan, the idea being the parenting plan should not be used as any way of delaying any entry of a support order. With that, I'd be happy to try to answer any questions regarding the amendments and I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Discussion of the committee amendments to LB 629. Seeing none, Senator Lindsay, do you wish to close? He waives closing. We will now vote on the committee amendments to LB 629. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We're voting on the committee amendments. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Ashford, to open on LB 629.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. LB 629 is a hold-over from last year. It was Senator Abboud's priority bill last year. There have been some changes in it and I'll try to describe them to you as best I can. The Parenting Act is designed to deal with a problem that I believe exists in our divorce courts and has for many, many years and that's the problem of the children slipping through the cracks of arguments that occur between husbands and wives and when they're going through divorces. As those of you who know, and I think there's probably not a family in the state that has not experienced divorce of a relative or have gone through a divorce themselves and as they know, as you know, normally what happens when you go through a court proceeding in a divorce case there is a trial. If custody is at issue, the court determines, based on the evidence that is presented at the trial, whether the children or child will go with either the...which parent, either of the parents. At some point in the proceedings, district courts appoint guardian ad litem to represent the children and...but generally the focus of the trial is on the parents, the parents' concerns about property, their arguments about custody and visitation and so forth and so on. The focus is not on the children. The focus is on the parents and I think that, in many cases, is a tragedy. Parents...children become dislocated, they